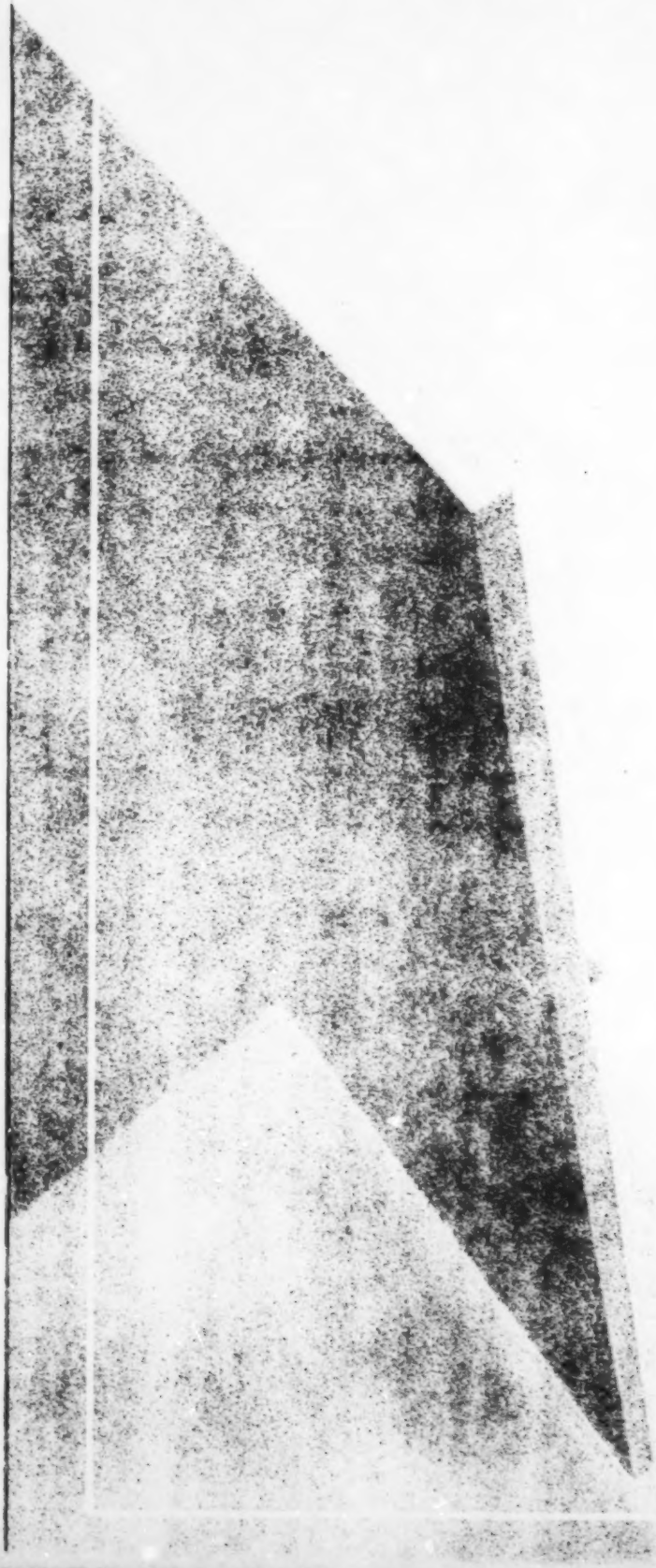

1990

Annual Report

Alberta

ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL OF ALBERTA

92-07419/

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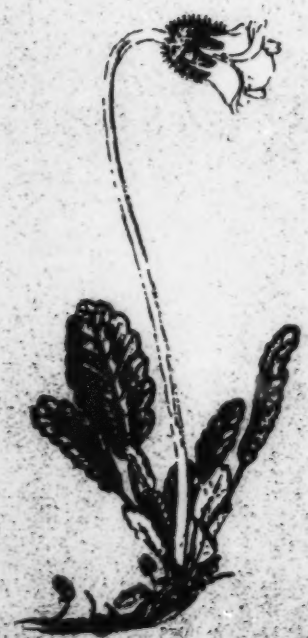

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Letter of Transmittal

Lieutenant-Governor in Council
Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta

Honorable R. Klein
Minister, Department of Environment
130 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta

Sirs:

I have the honor to present the Twentieth Annual Report of the Environment Council of Alberta for the year 1990 as required by Section 7 (1) (h) (i) of the Environment Council Act.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalia M. Krawetz

Dr. N. Krawetz
Chief Executive Officer

Chief Executive Officer's Message

In 1990, the Environment Council of Alberta (ECA) conducted a comprehensive revitalization program, effectively opening the door to the future.

In recognition of the rapidly changing conditions facing the Council, the revitalization process included a corporate review — the first in 13 years. The revitalization process also included successful efforts to reestablish the Council as a key player in the development of provincial conservation policy.

As a result of the focus of activities this year, the ECA is looking forward confidently to 1991 — a year in which a new course will be set and the public can begin to relate to the Council according to its new mandate.

Dr. Natalia Krawetz

The ECA pursued five initiatives as part of the 1990 revitalization process.

The Council

- *reviewed ECA activities and internal structure,*
- *participated in Alberta Environment's public review of its new environmental legislation,*
- *conducted an environmental office audit,*
- *established strong links between the ECA and the Alberta Round Table on Environment and Economy, and*
- *moved the Alberta Conservation Strategy onto the province's policy development stage.*

Internal Review

Although perceptions of the strengths, weaknesses, and effectiveness of the Council varied, virtually all those who participated in the review agreed the Council has considerable potential. Agreement that success largely depends upon the selection of a valid new mission and terms of reference was also widespread.

As soon as the decision to conduct a review was reached, the Council devoted maximum effort to the process. A major result of this priority was that, in April 1990, most of the volunteer advisory group* meetings were suspended so that full attention of the ECA, and of its stakeholders, could be focused on the review and revitalization process.

After careful consideration, and discussion with the ECA's staff, volunteer advisors, and other external stakeholders, including government officials, the Council determined that new emphasis for the Council will be on Alberta's future environmental concerns and emerging issues, rather than on the environmental challenges currently being addressed in public debate and legislative discussions.

*The Public Advisory Committees to the Environment Council of Alberta

Environmental Legislation Review

Reestablishment of the Environment Council of Alberta as a major environmental policy advisor in this province is high on the Council's list of objectives for the 1990s. An important opportunity to achieve this objective occurred with the public review of Alberta Environment's draft Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

In June 1990, the new draft legislation, amalgamating nine existing Acts along with parts of the Department of Environment Act, was published and distributed widely.

From October to December 1990 an appointed panel, with Banff-Cochrane MLA Brian Evans as chair and the Environment Council's CEO as vice-chair, held meetings across the province to gather comments on the draft legislation. Appointment to this high-profile panel projected the ECA back into the thick of things as an advisor on environmental policy development.

In the course of the legislative review, the panel relied fairly extensively on Council's experience with public consultation. For example, the panel set up a computer system based on the one the Council used for its early public hearings. As well, Council staff assisted with preparation of the legislative review panel report.

Environmental Audit

Part of the revitalization process is for Council to reestablish itself as a leader and developer of new ideas about environmental conservation practices. And one way to show leadership is by example. Early in 1990, therefore, the Council conducted an internal environmental audit of its own day-to-day operations. The question was, just how environmentally friendly is the Council when it comes to running its own business?

The entire staff participated in finding a clear answer by examining most aspects of ECA operations; and, upon completion of the audit, research staff prepared an informal written report.

Now, all ECA publications are printed on recycled paper. Paper recycling bins have been installed throughout the office, and the Council's delivery van is now equipped with rerefined motor oil. Double-sided photocopying was already the norm, and that continues, as do further reductions in office lighting.

Links with the Alberta Round Table

The Alberta Round Table on Environment and Economy was established this year to work on a sustainable development strategy for Alberta. At the same time, the Council's CEO was appointed as the Alberta Round Table's executive director, and Council itself was asked to provide the Round Table Secretariat with management services. The Secretariat now includes staff from the Council, Alberta Environment, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, and the private sector.

Conservation Strategy Process

Quite naturally, Council has been concerned that the nearly complete Alberta Conservation Strategy (ACS) — a product of efforts by volunteers and other stakeholders — should begin to have an influential place on the policy development stage.

Fortunately, establishment of the Alberta Round Table on Environment and Economy this year, and ECA's links with it, indicate a vital future role for the Conservation Strategy. The Round Table, for example, gladly accepted receipt of ACS documents, and the project is making the Round Table's job of developing a provincial sustainable development strategy easier.

Council determined that the new emphasis will be on Alberta's future environmental concerns and emerging issues rather than on the environmental challenges currently being addressed...

In addition to pursuing five main initiatives, the ECA continued to provide public information services and maintained and expanded its relationships with other environmental organizations.

Ongoing Commitments

Public Information Services

Demand for Council's public information services grew rapidly in 1990. This demand came from schools, universities, and a myriad of other agencies as well as those individuals who placed thousands of phone calls to the Council seeking either specific information or ordering ECA publications. In 1990 approximately 5,000 requests for information were received. This 20- percent increase in the volume of calls was largely due to the demand for the ECA's *Home Composting* brochure.

The following points are illustrative of the extent to which the Council is able to serve the public's information requirements:

Brochures — Close to 20,000 ECA publications were distributed. Of these, the most popular was *Home Composting* with 4,500 sent out. About 7,500 items from ECA's *What I Can Do for the Environment* series were also distributed.

Newsletters — The Council published two issues of *ACS Update*, then developed a special newsletter, titled *Transitions*. This ongoing feature published a full description of the ECA's review and revitalization process.

Referral and Reference Services — Each year, the Council's research and information staff members receive innumerable calls from the public for data on a wide range of environmental issues. As a result, a good deal of ECA staff time is devoted to supplying the public with the information it requests, or in finding referrals. The Council's Information Centre provides an essential resource for satisfying public enquiries and supporting Council staff involved in research projects.

Climate Change — A major ECA staff research paper titled *Climate Warming? Exploring the Answers* was developed with two objectives in mind. The first objective was to assist in raising public awareness and understanding of this important emerging issue; the second objective was to help advance the debate about Alberta's energy use and production futures.

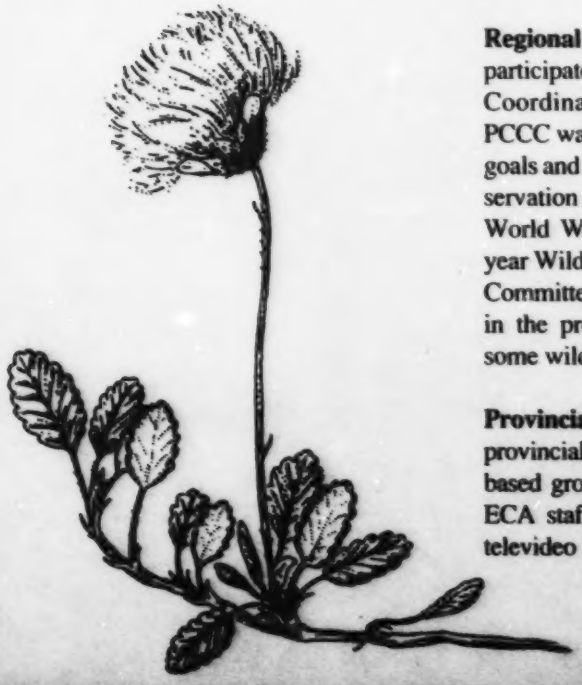
Climate Warming explores the possibility of a warmer atmosphere and deals with:

- greenhouse gases and their relative importance,
- chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and high altitude ozone destruction,
- the consequences of climate change,
- strategies to reduce and adapt to climate change.

Over 1,700 copies of *Climate Warming* had already been distributed by year end, just two months after it was published. This report has been praised extensively for its accessibility to the nonscientific reader, and it is expected to enjoy a very large audience during 1991.

Remote Bulletin Board System — During the year, Council's computerized remote bulletin board service *ECA ON LINE* continued to attract new users. In 1990 there were over 1,700 calls to the service, and total connect time was more than 340 hours.

Poster Collection — Growth in the use of ECA's international poster collection by outside agencies deserves special mention. This continuing ECA project is an example of the Council's cooperation with other groups and agencies to set the environmental message before the public. For example, Alberta Environment borrowed a large number of these posters for displays during Environment Week 1990. Other fairly high profile occasions at which our poster collection was used include National Wildlife Week and Clean Air Day. As well, several schools, universities, colleges, and health units use the collection regularly. Several items from the collection have also been displayed at Calgary City Hall.



External Relationships

Although the ECA is one of the smallest Alberta Government agencies, the Council multiplies its effectiveness by working with others on common causes. In all, ECA staff members spoke to more than 60 different groups during the year. These speaking engagements ranged from keynote addresses, through international conferences, to demonstrations and talks to small groups across the province.

International — Because of its background, and its activities in developing the conservation strategy proposals, Council was privileged to be cited this year for its comments on the second draft of the World Conservation Strategy report *Caring For The World - A Strategy For Sustainability.*

National — The Council continues to participate in the joint meetings of the Environment Councils of Canada, and staff members attended the annual conference in Manitoba, September 1990. Alberta will be hosting the 1991 conference.

Regional — An ECA staff member participates on the Prairie Conservation Coordinating Committee (PCCC). PCCC was established to carry out the goals and intentions of the Prairie Conservation Action Plan — a product of World Wildlife Fund Canada's three year Wild West program. The focus of Committee activities is well expressed in the program slogan, "Let's leave some wild in the West."

Provincial — ECA works with other provincial, municipal, and community based groups. This year, for example, ECA staff assisted ACCESS with its televideo course on water issues, and one staff member has assisted over the past few years with planning for a potential recreational-cum-environmental-education site on Big Lake near St. Albert.

During 1990, ECA staff also participated in

- Clean Air Strategy Workshops,
- Alberta Health's review of future directions in environmental health,
- Water Resources Commission's consultation on wetlands
- Special Waste Management's Swan Hills expansion discussions,
- Environment Week (ECA maintain's Environment Week Association's mailing lists)
- "Adopt a Classroom,"
- Architectural Clearinghouse advisory board,
- Steering committee for 1991 Alberta Rivers Conference,
- FEESA (Friends of Environmental Education Society of Alberta),
- Council's CEO is honorary chair of the Friends of Environmental Education Society of Alberta (FEESA),
- Alberta Catalyst Group for healthy communities, and strengthening community health.

Community — ECA staff assisted

- the Edmonton Board of Health on its steering committee for its Summer School and participated on the Board's Advisory Committee for Strategic Planning,
- the City of Edmonton's Aurum Landfill Mitigation Management Advisory Committee,
- the Aurum Landfill Application Review Panel,
- Annual Clean Air Day,
- the Edmonton coordinating committee for National Wildlife Week.

WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The World Conservation Strategy: Living Resource Conservation for Sustainable Development was published in 1980. This important document was prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) with cooperation from the World Wildlife Fund and the United Nations Environment Programme.

The Government of Canada, with the provinces and territories, accepted the World Conservation Strategy in principle in 1981, but left establishment of conservation strategies to provincial and territorial governments. In 1987 the Canadian Ministers of Environment endorsed the World Conservation Strategy and recommended that each province and territory develop a conservation strategy by 1992.

ACS Annual Report, 1990

Dr. Joan Snyder, Chairperson
Alberta Conservation Strategy
Steering Committee

The year 1990 was the fifth anniversary of the Alberta Conservation Strategy (ACS) project. As Public Advisory Committees to the Environment Council of Alberta (PAC) and the ECA look forward at this time, I believe it is also important to take a few minutes and look back at the last five years — to reflect on the significance of this time for PAC, for committee members as individuals, and for the environmental future of our province.

Those of you who are relatively new to PAC may not know that Alberta was the first province to respond to the 1980 publication of the World Conservation Strategy and its endorsement by the Ministers of Environment. Elmer Kure, a long-time farmer and conservationist, saw the potential in the World Conservation Strategy and late in 1984 brought the idea for an Alberta Conservation Strategy to the ECA and PAC. The rest, as they say, is history.

One year later, a Steering Committee was in place and the first document of the project, *Prospectus for an Alberta Conservation Strategy*, was circulated in draft form and unanimously endorsed at the 1985 Annual Joint Meeting. The *Prospectus* was a milestone in Canada, and the six objectives it proposed for an ACS went beyond the World Conservation Strategy by encompassing nonrenewable resources; recognizing the need to protect and improve the urban environment; and explicitly acknowledging the importance of the environment in meeting our non-material needs.

Since 1985, PAC and the ECA have published 15 background discussion papers, in addition to the *Prospectus* and the ACS *Framework for Action*. The final handful should be published in the next few months. Nearly 38,000 copies have been distributed and the ACS mailing list stands at approximately 4,000 names. These materials are being sent in response to requests, which means that we are getting information out to people who clearly want it.

PAC has truly been part of the solution, in my view, to the public debate surrounding sustainable development. When it was launched in Alberta, the Conservation Strategy project was on the leading edge. We were struggling with the concept and definition of sustainable development at the same time as the members of the Brundtland Commission.

This project has affected each and every one of us in a very personal way. Individually and as a group, members of the Steering Committee and many of us on the PAC subcommittees have had to examine some of our deepest beliefs and values, and test our commitment to the future. We have reached a better understanding and appreciation of the values of others at the same time. But it has not been easy. We are now seeing the same kind of activity in all regions of Canada as each jurisdiction struggles to prepare its own strategy for sustainable development.

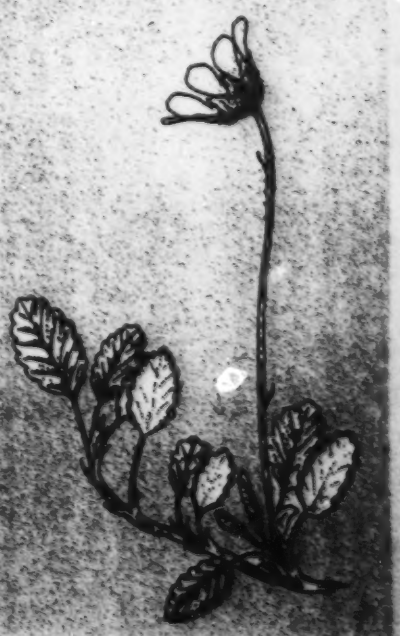
It has been said that history is made when people come to the same conclusion from many different directions. I believe this is what is happening now, both in Canada and around the world. Our resources are not limitless; the environment is not just a gift from nature to use and abuse as we wish; and it is imperative that we do more than pay lip service to the inseparability of conservation and development. Many of the principles we agreed to more than two years ago, and ultimately published in the ACS *Framework*, are popping up in the materials from many other places. We do not take any credit for this, rather we see it as evidence of the essential convergence in thinking that must occur if our future is to be a sustainable one.

PAC has always maintained that our stewardship of the Alberta Conservation Strategy was temporary. We wanted to take it as far as we could, then set it free to mature and develop on its own. This is where we are at the end of 1990. The Alberta Round Table on Environment and Economy, like Round Tables in other parts of the country, has been given the responsibility to prepare a sustainable development strategy for this province. All ACS publications have been presented to the Round Table for its examination and use in this challenging and difficult task. I know the work that PAC has done on the ACS project is sound and meaningful, and I have every confidence that the conclusions of the Round Table will reflect many of the same ideas, values, and principles.

I'm sure I speak for the Public Advisory Committees when I say nothing would give us more pleasure than to see the work we have done over the last five years become part of a strategy for a truly sustainable future for the people of Alberta — one where we all are treating Alberta as if we plan to stay.

BRUNDTLAND COMMISSION

In 1983 the secretary-general of the United Nations requested that Gro Harlem Brundtland, then prime minister of Norway, assemble the Committee for a World Commission on Environment and Development. The mandate of the commission, often called the Brundtland Commission after its chairman, was to formulate a global agenda for change. Our Common Future — the Brundtland Report — contains the commission's findings. It was published in 1987.



ALBERTA LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Chief Executive Officer of the
Environment Council of Alberta

I have examined the balance sheet of the Environment Council of Alberta as at March 31, 1990 and the statements of revenue, expenditure and unexpended funds and equity in fixed assets for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 1990 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the disclosed basis of accounting, as described in Note 2 to the financial statements, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Donald D. Salmon

Donald D. Salmon, FCA
Auditor General
Edmonton, Alberta
June 20, 1990

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 1990

Assets	1990	1989
Current:		
Cash	$ 29,855	$ 68,937
Accounts receivable	131	—
Prepaid expenses	10,116	1,890
	40,102	70,827
Fixed:		
Office equipment, at cost	172,716	152,084
Less: Accumulated depreciation	152,862	139,899
	19,854	12,185
	$ 59,956	**$ 83,012**

Liabilities and Equity

Current:		
Accounts payable	5,835	2,565
Equity:		
Equity in fixed assets	19,854	12,185
Unexpended funds	34,267	68,262
	54,121	80,447
	$ 59,956	**$ 83,012**

The accompanying notes are part of the financial statement.

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Unexpended Funds for the Year Ended March 31, 1990

Revenue:	**1990**	**1989**
Contributions by the Province of Alberta, General Revenue Fund	$ 989,949	$ 795,748
Expenditures:		
Salaries	699,048	699,342
Travelling	99,375	87,345
Employee benefits	79,372	81,697
Supplies and postage	46,325	22,091
Fees and commissions	27,745	7,814
Equipment rental	22,167	16,621
Equipment purchases	20,632	4,639
Printing	14,472	15,306
Telephone	5,102	3,388
Hall rentals, meetings and hosting	4,369	1,955
Library	2,799	1,880
Equipment maintenance	2,068	-
Miscellaneous	470	512
	1,023,944	942,590
Excess of expenditure over revenue	(33,995)	(146,842)
Unexpended funds at beginning of year	68,262	215,104
Unexpended funds at end of year	**$ 34,267**	**$ 68,262**

Statement of Equity in Fixed Assets for the year ended March 31, 1990

	1990	1989
Balance at beginning of year	$ 12,185	$ 19,747
Add: Equipment purchases	20,632	4,639
	32,817	24,386
Less: Depreciation for the year	12,963	12,201
Balance at end of year	**$ 19,854**	**$ 12,185**

Notes to the Financial Statements March 31, 1990

Note 1 **Authority**

The Environment Council of Alberta operates under the authority of the Environment Council Act, Chapter E-13, Revised Statutes of Alberta 1980.

Note 2 **Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles except that fixed assets are charged to expenditure at the date of acquisition. Fixed assets are shown on the balance sheet at original cost less accumulated depreciation, with a corresponding credit to equity in fixed assets. Depreciation is charged to equity in fixed assets.

Depreciation is provided over the estimated useful life of the assets on the straight-line method at a rate of 33 1/3% for computer equipment and software and 10% for the remaining office equipment. Interest earned on cash balances is credited to the General Revenue Fund, and is not reflected in these financial statements.

A statement of changes in financial position is not provided as disclosure in these financial statements is considered to be adequate.

Note 3 **Administration Expenses**

The cost of office furniture and accommodation expenses incurred in the administration of the Council are borne by the General Revenue Fund and are not reflected in these financial statements.

Note 4 **Leases**

The Council has an obligation under a long-term operating lease for equipment rental. The future minimum lease payments for each of the next five years and thereafter are:

Year Ending March 31

1991	$19,234
1992	19,234
1993	19,234
1994	19,234
1995	4,809
1996 and thereafter	—
	$81,745

Note 5 **Approval of Financial Statements**

These financial statements were approved by management.

The publications mentioned in this report may be obtained by contacting the Environment Council of Alberta at the following address:

The Environment Council of Alberta
8th Floor, Weber Centre
5555 Calgary Trail Southbound, N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5P9

Telephone: (403) 427-5792
Fax: (403) 427-0388